SLAARC CW RENAISSANCE

CW LEARNING RESOURCES AND PRACTICE TOOLS

A GLIMPSE INTO MY CW JOURNEY

RETIRED FORD IT MANAGER - 5 YEARS AS AN AGENCY PROGRAMMER, 20 YEARS AT FORD CREDIT, 5 YEARS AT FORD MOTOR

COVID HAM – TECHNICIAN IN 2021, GENERAL IN 2023, EXTRA IN 2024

POTA FOR THE LAST COUPLE YEARS – 264 ACTIVATIONS AND 10,900 QSOS (97 CW, 3571 DIGITAL, 7265 PHONE). MET THE SLAARC CREW AT THE MICHIGAN POTA MEETUP AT SLEEPY HOLLOW SP

CW SEEMED LIKE THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP BEYOND LICENSING AND ANOTHER TOOL/MODE AVAILABLE FOR POTA

HOW I STARTED LEARNING MORSE CODE

LEARNING MORSE ALPHABET

Like everyone, I started working on the alphabet and copying with a decoder
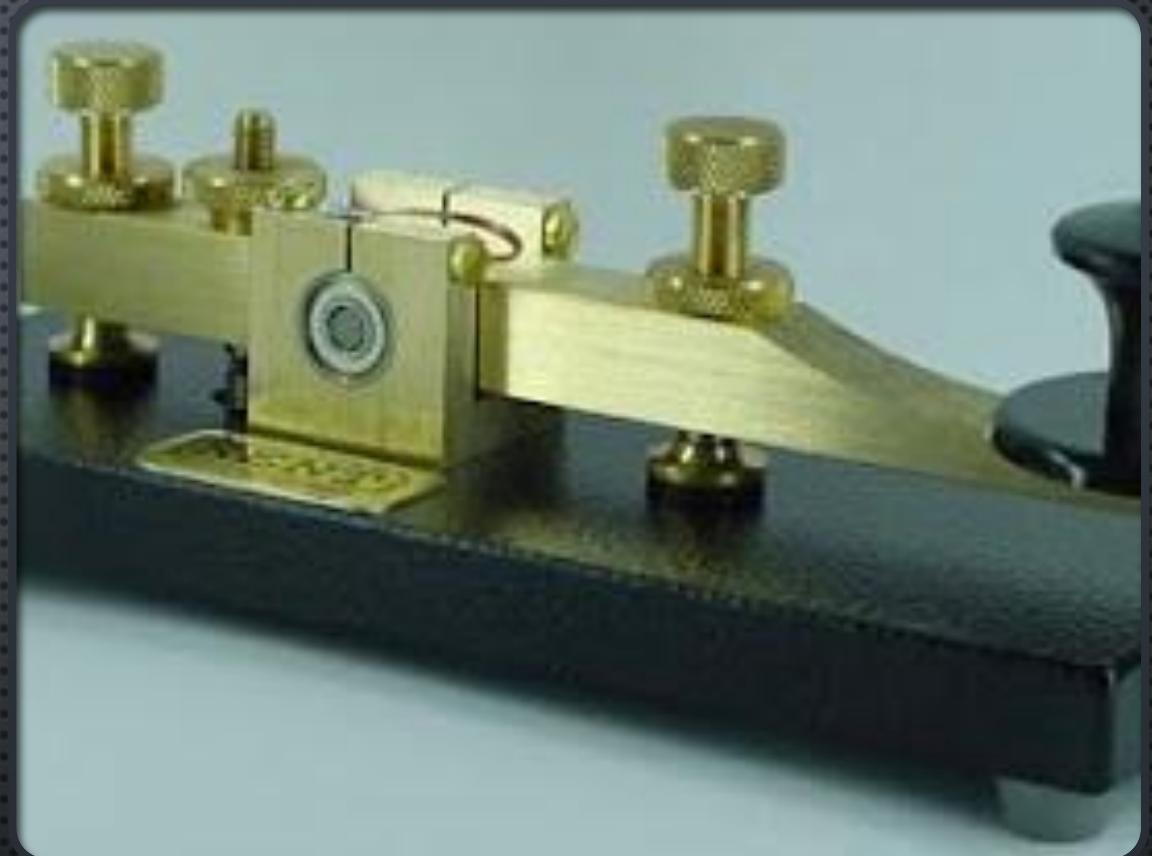
QUICKLY REALIZED I NEED HELP TO MAKE PROGRESS

Joined the CW OPS – CW Academy; Scheduling issues didn't allow me to complete the initial course

Watched the magic of CW at the Michigan POTA meetup around the campfire

Joined the Long Island CW Club (LICW) – completed the three Beginners carousels

Practicing copy and sending while forcing myself on the air

COMPARE & CONTRAST

	CW ACADEMY	LONG ISLAND CW
Beginnings	CW club saw a need for training and started in 2012	Field day event exposed the lack of CW operators (2017)
Cost	Free	1-year donation of $30, 2 $50, 3 $70, lifetime membership for $90
Class Schedule	3 sessions a year (Jan-Feb, May-Jun, Sep-Oct) 8 Weeks & 2 classes a week (same days each week)	Carousels always running and jump in anytime
Class Size	6 students, 1 Advisor and 1 Associate Advisor	Many instructors, Many classes per week
Format	Zoom, paddle keys, 60 minutes of practice a day	Zoom, Straight key preferred, Morse Practice page used class and practice, regular short amounts of practice
Class Levels	Beginner – no experience -> 6WPM Fundamental – 6WPM -> 10WPM Intermediate – Contests, DX, Ragchew 20wpm Advanced – Speed! 30wpm	BC1 – 18 chars; BC2 - 26 Chars & Prosigns; BC3 – Protocal/Exchanges INT1 - not losing focus; INT2 – Speed; INT3 – Word comprehension

PRACTICE TOOLS

Applications – Phone Apps: Morse Mania, Morse Maven, Websites: LICW Practice Page

VBAND – USB Key Interface to Practice sending channels

Morse Code Tutor – rPI device to practice copying and sending

TIPS

Don't use a cheat sheet

Avoid using a decoder

Don't count dits and dahs — hear the letter as a sound. Higher speeds can promote this - *"It is not the speed at which a letter is sounded that perplexes the learner, but the rapid succession in which they follow each other."* (Use Effective speed 25/8, 25/10…)

Sending will improve your copying

Code talk to practice — The License Plate Example

CW ADVANTAGES

Much more space on the bands

CW is great in noisy environments

CW gets easier with on-the-air time

CW is therapy – requires a focused state of mind

CW operators are incredible supportive (training, helping, patience)

Reverse beacon for auto spotting

Cool QRP CW Rigs

5 Watts of CW power is equal to 70 Watts SSB

Completely quiet with headphones

QUESTIONS?